

NAVY REFORM.

Joint Committee of Investigation Making Preparations.

Radical Changes Needed to Preserve Efficiency.

RETIREMENTS SLOW.

Merit Kept Down Because of Seniority Rule.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—The joint congressional committee consisting of members of each house of congress, appointed to investigate the personnel of the navy, has begun its preparations for the work in hand and a determination is expressed to make the investigation as thorough as may be practicable with the hope of being able to make some recommendation which will remedy such evils as may now exist.

The need of reorganization to which this investigation looks is not new. Its importance has long been recognized by the navy department and by congress, but it has remained unacted upon because of a want of time and a failure to secure concerted action.

It is proposed to try to find a proper means for the organization of both staff and line of the navy, as well as to provide a means of promotion for the enlisted men and to find a means other than that of seniority of service for securing promotion.

The advocates of a change in the regulations controlling the line officers, including the navy department officials, contend that a radical modification of existing laws must be made to prevent the personnel from becoming totally inefficient from congestion and paralysis. They say that owing to various causes the retirements are very slow, and chances for promotion few.

They argue from this and other similar illustrations that the present system of promotion by seniority of rank only prevents in many instances the promotion of many officers who should be advanced in rank on account of merit, and the principal end in view of the committee will be the finding of a means of bringing about a change in this respect. There will also be an effort to provide a means of promotion of the enlisted men of the navy, as it is believed that will prove a strong incentive to more efficient service. It is pointed out that the chances of preference for this class of our seamen are fewer than in many European countries.

The committee will go into the other questions and hopes to be able to report a bill which will receive the sanction of the navy department and congress, and thus become a law. The joint committee is composed of Senators Butler, Blackburn and Hale, and Representatives Merriam, Money and Wadsworth.

Clearance Slave Sale, Payne's.

HERE ARE THE WORKERS.

Names of Those Who Will Canvas for the Associated Charities.

The Associated Charities have organized provisionally for the purpose of relieving immediate distress and experimental districts have been formed and district visitors selected from those who have volunteered to assist the association in its work.

The visitors are expected to inform themselves of the conditions and needs in their respective districts and to report the same to Secretary Eldridge. They are also to assist in procuring contributions of clothing, provisions and money. The districts and visitors are as follows:

Second Ward.

First, second and third precincts, or all of the territory east of Kansas avenue and north of Fourth street; visitors, Ingleside ladies, Mrs. Jonathan Thomas, Fred, Mrs. H. S. Childs.

Fifth precinct—West Santa Fe tracks south of Fourth street; visitors, Mrs. S. D. Alfred, Mrs. H. S. Childs.

Fifth precinct—West Santa Fe tracks to Kansas avenue, between Fourth and Eighth streets; visitors, Miss Lucy Kingman and Mrs. S. M. Den.

Third Ward.

First precinct—M. J. Dunmar and J. L. Eldridge.

Second precinct—Mrs. Harold Chase and Mrs. H. E. Ball.

Third precinct—Mrs. C. M. Sheldon, Mrs. T. W. Harrison, Mrs. L. D. Whittemore, Mrs. O. H. Patel.

Special district, south of Huntoon and west of Western avenue, including the Martin and Decatur addition and Quinton Heights—Mrs. Eugene L. Ware, Mrs. Dr. Lindsay, Mrs. J. W. Gifford, Mrs. A. G. Carruth and Miss Ella Van.

Fourth Ward.

First precinct—Mrs. Silas Rain and Mrs. Frank Foster.

Second precinct—Ingleside women.

Third precinct—Mrs. Dr. Minney and Mrs. J. N. Laney.

Fourth precinct—Mrs. T. F. Lanahan and Mrs. A. A. Ripley.

Pattison and Amblerdale district—Mrs. J. B. Johnson, Mrs. E. H. Littlefield and Mrs. Geo. W. Parikhart.

Fifth Ward.

First precinct—Mrs. Louise Denning and Mrs. R. H. Hargraves.

Second precinct—Councillmen Fulton and Griggs, Marcus Jacobus and Rev. Mr. Barton.

Oakland district—Mrs. Richard Wake and Mrs. H. S. Curds.

FIGURES OF THE FIGHT.

Corbett Hit Mitchell Lightfoot Times in the Face.

CITRUS, Feb. 2.—A sporting writer with a statistical turn of mind, who was present at the Corbett-Mitchell contest, says that there were twenty-seven blows struck, and of these he credits twenty-two to Corbett and five to Mitchell. According to this summary, Mitchell hit Corbett four times on the body and once in the face, while the champion scored eighteen face and four body blows.

The referee stands in Sullivan and Mitchell is illustrated in the fact that it required 180 blows to vanquish Sullivan, while twenty-two were sufficient for Mitchell.

Congress Not a Picnic.

The man who gets along best in congress, or at least the one who remains the longest, is the man who is content to be an errand boy for a district full of politicians at a salary of \$5,000 a year; who is willing to be pulled and hauled about for the honor of writing M. C. after his name. It is unfortunately true that real statesmanship is a rather scarce article in Washington just now. A majority of our public men cease to be statesmen and become mere purveyors of office. Their energies, especially those whose party is in power, are taken up more with the offices that are still unfilled than with the questions that are still unsolved. A few days ago a group of about 50 congressmen, including five or six senators, sat in the office of the postmaster general awaiting a chance at the ear of that official. Said a newspaper man to a member of the house: "How about the Income tax? What do you think will be done with it?" "Bother the income tax, the tariff bill and everything else," responded the member, "only be used a stronger word than 'bother'." "I don't care what they do with 'em if I can't get a postoffice I am after. With this postoffice it will be possible for me to stay in congress. Without it my goose is forever cooked."

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